THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) India and the USA have agreed on the text of a bilateral 'Agreement for Cooperation between the Government of India and the Government of the United States of America Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy'. The finalised text has been released to the public on August 3, 2007 and a statement in this regard has been made by PM in Parliament on 13 August, 2007. The finalised text of the Agreement has received the approval of the Cabinet. As negotiated by India in the Agreement, India wilt complete the negotiation of an India specific safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The United States will work with Nuclear Suppliers Group to adjust their Guidelines to enable full civil nuclear energy cooperation and trade with India before it, as required by US law, takes the Agreement to the US Congress for its approval. Only after this can the bilateral Agreement be formally signed and enter into force for implementation by both sides.

River bridges in Orissa on NH-5(A)

*3. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the river bridges on the NH-S(A) in Orissa State, have sounded a warning of possible collapse on account of heavy traffic; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating *inter alia th*e action plan of Government to strengthen all the river bridges on this highway to meet with the increased traffic?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R.
BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) However, the rehabilitation of existing bridges on entire length of NH-5(A) between Chandhikhole and Paradeep have been taken up as a part of 4-laning work. The entire 4-laning work is scheduled for completion by June, 2008.

Highways taken up in Andhra Pradesh

*4. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the highways taken up during the last three years in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the details thereof, highway-wise;

(c) the recommendations pending with the Union Government from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) This Ministry is primarily responsible for the development of National Highways (NH) and the responsibility for the development of State Highways rests with the respective State Governments. As regards National Highways, details of development works sanctioned NH-wise in the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement *(See* below).

(c) and (d) Keeping in view the available bank of sanction as on 1.4.2007 and the allocation for the current financial year, the limit for sanction of new works during 2007-08 works out to Rs. 53.00 crore. Against this, proposals amounting to Rs. 42.00 crore have already been sanctioned and the remaining are under process. However, considering the urgency to sanction some important works as per the recommendations of the State Government, sanction limit has been increased from Rs. 53.00 crore to Rs. 124.00 crore recently as a special case. These additional proposals are under examination.

Statement

Details of development works taken up NH-wise during the last three years in the State of Andhra Pradesh

NHNo.	No. of works	Amount (Rs. in crore)
4	3	7.99
5	-	-
7	13	4153.37
9	7	16.92
16	18	35.50
18	19	49.61
43	4	11.19
63	4	17.73
202	17	40.83
205	17	39.62
214	16	88.25
214A	1	2.04
219	7	22.27
221	1	2.35
222	!	11.19
TOTAL:	128	4498.86

Renting of SIMs

*5. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether cellular service providers in the country are found to be renting out SIMs to users whose identities the service providers are not aware of;

(b) the numbers of SIMs issued by each of the service providers;

(c) the punishment/fine imposed, prosecutions launched, if any, on such defaulters; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to curb the menace?